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CLAIMS:

1. A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

5 storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristic at a plurality of different levels;

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal.

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2. A method according to claim 1 in which the amplitude falls between two gain characteristics and an interpolation between these is made to apply to the input signal.

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3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 including the step of storing at least one impulse response and applying a stored impulse response to the input signal in addition to the gain characteristic.

4. A method according to any preceding claim in which the gain

20 characteristic to be applied to an input signal is determined in response to a manual input.

5. A method according to claim 3 or 4 in which an interpolation between two or more impulse responses is made and applied to the input signal.

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6. A method according to claim 4 in which a manual input is used to select the impulse responses to be applied.

7. A method according to any preceding claim in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

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8. Apparatus for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising:

means for storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics at a plurality of different levels;

5 repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;
determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and
applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal.

9. Apparatus according to claim 8 in which the amplitude of the input
10 signal falls between two gain characteristics and including means for interpolating
between these two gain characteristics to produce a gain characteristic to be applied to
the input signal.

10. A method according to claim 8 or 9 including means for storing at least
15 one impulse response, and means for applying a stored impulse response to the input
signal in addition to the gain characteristic.

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11. A method according to any of the claims 9 to 10 including a manual
input for a gain characteristic to be applied to an input signal.

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12. Apparatus according to claim 10 or 11 including means for
interpolating between two or more impulse responses before applying the interpolated
response to the input signal.

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13. Apparatus according to claim 11 including a manual input to select the
impulse response to be applied.

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14. Apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 13 in which the gain
characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

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